

Sewee The Place To Be!

January—March, 2003

Sewee Visitor & Environmental Education Center

Cape Romain and Sewee Center Celebrate 100 years of Land and Species Protection Through the National Wildlife Refuge System!!



On March 14, 1903, President Theodore Roosevelt signed the declaration that began the **National Wildlife Refuge System** with the protection of pelicans and the five-acre island of Pelican Island, Florida. This system now encompasses more than 93 million acres in 538 refuges in every state in the United States.

In South Carolina we are fortunate to have several sites, including Cape Romain, Waccamaw, ACE Basin, Santee, Carolina Sandhills and Savannah Coastal. These areas are dedicated to the preservation of endangered and threatened species such as the loggerhead sea turtle, red wolves, red-cockaded woodpeckers, wood storks, and swallow-tailed kites. They are also dedicated to informing and educating the public, including adults and students, about their mission and the need for all of us to be involved in supporting these lands and species.

To that end, the SEWEE Association is proud to be a partner with all of the SC refuges in this celebration in 2003. We hope we will see you at some of the events listed below or on our refuges!!



Southeastern Wildlife Expo—Friday—Sunday, February 14—16, 9:00—

5:00: This year all the National Wildlife Refuges of South Carolina will come together under a BIG TENT in Marion Square to issue in the celebration of the Centennial. We will also have representatives from other USFWS agencies with us to provide information and fun activities. Rumor is that President Teddy Roosevelt and the Blue Goose will be there for photo ops!! The refuges will sponsor a talk by Rudy Mancke about the NWR lands that he and the Naturescene crew visited. They also have contracted to present a play on the life of Rachel Carson called "A Sense of Wonder" by Kaiulani Lee. This play has received rave reviews and is a must to see. There will be fun for all so watch for details or call us for more information.

Celebrating a Century of Conservation at Sewee Center—Saturday, March 15, 2003, 10:00am—2:00pm: We invite the public to our Open House Centennial Celebration! We will have activities for adults and children all helping us to understand the significance of the National Wildlife Refuge System. Details will be publicized in early March, so put the date on your calendar now!!!

Other events where we will be promoting the Centennial include the SC Wildlife Federation's Annual Meeting in late January and the Palmetto Sportsman Classic in late March. Show your support of SC Refuges by visiting us at these sites!!!

Walk in the Woods

This is the best time to walk through the areas of our public lands with interpretation along the way. The bugs are gone, the weather is refreshing and many times we see more this time of year. All walks are FREE, but registration by Saturday prior to the walk is requested. Most walks last about 2 hours.

Sunday, 1/19 —8:00am (note the special early time) —Guided by biologist Steve Lohr: Steve will take us to a special place to view migratory waterfowl and other overwintering birds. Come prepared for the weather. Location will be determined the week prior to the walk.



Sunday, 2/23—2:00pm —Guided by forester John Dupree to El Dorado: We will start with a short slide presentation about this former plantation, then head up to the Santee River to walk amongst the ruins and look for wildlife living there now.

Sunday, 3/30—2:00pm—Exploring the Awendaw Connection of the Palmetto Trail: Guided by Francis Marion National Forest forester John Dupree, we will walk through the newest section of the Swamp Fox Trail, beginning in the maritime forest at Walnut Grove plantation and proceeding along the salt marsh to end at Awendaw Creek.

Lowcountry Discoveries

Com join us in our special learning opportunities on weekends called the Lowcountry Discoveries. You can participate in many of the same classes that we offer to school groups throughout the week. All classes are from 10:00—noon & are for ages 6—12! **Registration Required by Friday noon prior to the class!! Fees are \$3.00 per child.**

Saturday, 1/18 —Dissecting Owl Pellets: Owl pellets can be opened to reveal the mysteries of the owl's diet. Come and learn about these night creatures in a different way.

Saturday, 2/22 — Bird Adaptations: This class will explore the beaks, feet and feathers of different birds to learn why they are that way. Learn why some birds eat seed and others eat meat or fish. Then we will take our binoculars (provided by the Center) and get a closer look at our feathered friends.

Saturday 3/1—Salt Marsh: Explore the plants and animals of the salt marsh. Discover a Native American shell midden and look for the creatures that live there.

Sewee Stitchers

We are continuing our offering of various programs to learn “stitching” or craft techniques. Call for more details!!

Tuesday, 3/18—7:00pm– Quilting: Geneva Lowe will instruct everyone on the art of had quilting. Materials will be provided with the fee of \$15. Registration required as class size is limited by Saturday, March 15th.





Sewee Explorer Series

Learning about the plants and animals of our area!!

Saturday, 1/11—10:00 am—noon—Build a song bird feeder - Help our song birds and other backyard birds find food for the winter months. Build and take home a feeder made from cedar and plexiglass with hanging hooks. Register by 1/9. Cost is \$5/box.

Saturday, 2/8 – 10:00am—noon—Blue Bird Nest Boxes: These beautiful birds will soon be looking for places to create their nests for the spring. Come and build a nest box and learn how to keep a record of activity at your box and how to maintain it. Register by 2/6. Cost is \$5/box.

Saturday, 3/29—10:00am—noon—Nature Drawing: Students will learn how to draw what they see in nature with Artist Janna Larson. Ages 6-12. Register by 3/27.

Francis Marion & Sumter National Forests Receive Regional Forester's Seamless Government Award for Wood Magic Fair!



On December 4, 2002, these entities were recognized in Atlanta by the US Forest Service Regional Office for their cooperative work with multiple agencies in the production of the Wood Magic Fair for fourth-grade students. The award recognizes employees' outstanding efforts to work collaboratively with other government agencies regardless of political or natural resource boundaries.

The South Carolina Wood Magic Fair has been held at the Sewee Center for three years, bringing over 1000 students each year to learn about sustainable forestry. Agencies participating at the Sewee Center event include Francis Marion and

Sumter National Forests, Clemson University, SC State University, SC Department of Natural Resources, SC DHEC, SC Forestry Commission, SC Forestry Association, Cape Romain National Wildlife Refuge and SEWEE Association.

Sewee Lecture Series Returns

Come join us for informative lectures by noted professionals on subjects relevant to the Refuge and the Forest. All lectures are free at 7:00pm with refreshments served beginning at 6:30pm.



Thursday, January 23—Status of the Bald Eagle in South Carolina:

Tom Murphy, Endangered Species specialist with the SC Department of Natural Resources, will talk with us on the current status of the bald eagle in South Carolina. After many years of continual increases in populations, there is now a major threat to this symbol of our nation in the form of AVM disease. Tom will update us on the latest information and research related to this bird of prey.

Thursday, February 27—Celebrating National Wildlife Refuges with Naturescene: The crew of SCETV's Naturescene spent many hours filming their shows in our National Wildlife Refuges across our country. They have taken this footage and compiled a new Naturescene show celebrating these public lands as a part of the Centennial Celebration. Naturescene's host, Jim Welch, will present this new video for our viewing and will talk about their work with the staff of the refuge system. Wine and cheese reception following the presentation.

Thursday, March 27—To Be Announced — Watch the newspapers for the topic and speaker.

SEWEE Association
PO Box 1131
Mt. Pleasant, SC 29465-1131

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January—March Events Calendar for the Sewee Visitor & Environmental Education Center
Call 843-928-3368 to register for events or for more information

Gifts of the Forest & the Refuge

Come to the Sewee Center to learn about crafts or products from our natural lands.

Sunday, 2/2: 2:00 — Meck Hartfield, Blacksmith. Demonstration by Mr. Hartfield on how he creates his beautiful metal sculptures. He will also have other pieces for sale.

Sunday, 3/2: 2:00—Quilting by Geneva Lowe: Local quilter Geneva Lowe will demonstrate how she designs and creates her beautiful quilts. She will also have quilts available for sale.

Sign me up as a member of the
SEWEE Association!

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP _____

PHONE: (home) _____

(office) _____

E-MAIL: _____

Please check your membership status:

☐ Lifetime \$250

☐ Contributor \$100

☐ Supporter \$50

☐ Family \$17

☐ Individual \$12

☐ Check Enclosed

☐ Charge my Credit Card:

(Circle one) Visa/MC Exp. date _____

Card # _____

Make checks payable to the SEWEE Association, Inc. Memberships are tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law. Send application & payment to:

SEWEE Association, Inc.,

PO Box 1131

Mt. Pleasant, SC 29465-1131



SC Center for Birds of Prey Presentations
Every 2nd and 4th Sunday at 2:00PM
Live Birds and Information about Birds of Prey in
the Lowcountry